

AGN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

August 31, 2021

**Commemorating the National Chicano Moratorium Against the Vietnam War and the Death of Ruben Salazar**

On August 29, 1970, one of the largest anti-Vietnam War demonstrations by any minority group in the United States occurred. More than 20,000 demonstrators marched on the streets of unincorporated East Los Angeles to protest the disproportionate number of Chicanos being drafted into the military, many of whom never returned. The funding cuts to social and economic development programs and schools in order to finance the war took a toll on low-income Chicano communities. Young Chicanos who just turned 18 were “ripe” for the draft because there was no college pipeline and resources for them to access. The military became the only option. The Chicano Moratorium was a direct response to these systemic injustices. But what started out as a peaceful protest ended in police violence against peaceful activists by sheriff’s deputies. Tear gas cannisters were dropped from helicopters and the police declared the peaceful protest an “illegal assembly.” Businesses were destroyed, hundreds were arrested and injured, and, tragically, three were killed, including Rubén Salazar – an award-winning journalist, news director of a local Spanish television station, and columnist for the Los Angeles Times.

**MOTION**

MITCHELL

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KUEHL

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HAHN

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BARGER

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51 years have passed since the uprising that day in unincorporated East Los Angeles. Today, peaceful protesters are once again marching in the streets to demand justice for Black lives. Los Angeles County must stand with peaceful protesters today and honor the memory of the Chicano Moratorium from 51 years ago.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors proclaim August 29, 2021 as the 51st Anniversary of the National Chicano Moratorium Against the Vietnam War and the Death of Ruben Salazar in Los Angeles County.

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HLS:hn